

Williams, William Sherley

One of the mountain men who trapped and explored in the American West, William Sherley Williams, b. Rutherford County, N.C., June 3, 1787, served as an interpreter and guide for various U.S. government surveying expeditions. He moved near St. Louis in 1794, and at the age of 16 he went to live among the Osage Indians for 25 years. During this time Williams, known as Old Bill, served as government interpreter and scout. Beginning in 1824 he spent much of his time trapping in the southern Rockies. Later he was a guide on the 1845 and 1848 expeditions of John C. Fremont. On Mar. 21, 1849, Williams was ambushed and killed by Indians.

Elliott West

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